

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1       1. A method comprising:  
2           at a device, opening a first connection to a server;  
3           establishing an information exchange protocol for  
4       communicating on the first connection;  
5           at a device, opening a second connection to the server;  
6           selecting an active connection from connections including  
7       the second connection; and  
8           communicating information configured for the information  
9       exchange protocol using the active connection.

1       2. The method of claim 1 further comprising  
2       communicating information configured for the information  
3       exchange protocol using the first connection as the active  
4       connection prior to selecting the second connection as the  
5       active connection.

6       3. The method of claim 1 in which the second connection  
7       is opened prior to establishing the information exchange  
8       protocol.

9       4. The method of claim 1 in which a single one of the  
10      connections is selected as the active connection.

1       5. The method of claim 1 in which two or more of the  
2       connections are selected as the active connection.

1       6. The method of claim 1 in which the second connection  
2 includes a wireless connection.

1       7. The method of claim 1 or 6 further comprising  
2           monitoring the connections for a parameter selected from  
3           the group consisting of signal strength, transmittal rate,  
4           latency, cost of transmittal, and connection integrity; and  
5           reselecting the active connection to optimize the  
6           parameter.

1       8. The method of claim 1 in which the information is  
2           communicated in packets that include aggregated information  
3           for more than one application.

1       9. The method of claim 1, 4, or 6 in which the  
2           information includes a command that is effected by a module on  
3           the server.

1       10. The method of claim 1 in which the information  
2           comprises an aggregation of information from applications, the  
3           extent of aggregation for each application being dependent on  
4           an indicator of priority for information exchange associated  
5           with each application.

1       11. The method of claim 9 in which the command causes  
2           the server to contact a remote system, receive a reply from  
3           the remote system, and effect a response without transmitting  
4           the reply to the device.

1       12. A method comprising:  
2           at a server, accepting connections from a device for  
3           communicating information configured by an information  
4           exchange protocol;  
5           detecting or selecting one or more of the connections of  
6           as an active connection; and  
7           communicating information configured by the information  
8           exchange protocol using the active connection.

1       13. The method of claim 12 in which a single one of the  
2           connections is selected as the active connection.

1       14. The method of claim 12 in which the information is  
2           communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets  
3           includes aggregated information for different applications on  
4           the device.

1       15. The method of claim 12 in which the information  
2           includes a command for a module.

1       16. The method of claim 15 further comprising effecting  
2           the command.

1       17. The method of claim 16 in which the module effects  
2           the command by contacting a remote server, receiving a reply  
3           from the remote server and effecting a response without  
4           transmitting the reply to the device.

1       18. The method of claim 12, 13, or 17 in which the  
2 information is an aggregation of information for applications,  
3 the extent of aggregation for each application being dependent  
4 on an indicator of priority for information exchange  
5 associated with each application.

1       19. An apparatus comprising a processor and software  
2 configured to cause the processor to:  
3           open a first connection to a server;  
4           establish an information exchange protocol;  
5           open a second connection to a server;  
6           select an active connection from connections including  
7 the second connection; and  
8           communicate information configured for the information  
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1       20. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the processor is  
2 further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter  
3 selected from the group consisting of signal strength,  
4 transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection  
5 integrity; and  
6           reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

1       21. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information  
2 is communicated in packets, each of at least some of the  
3 packets includes aggregated information for different local  
4 applications.

1       22. The apparatus of claim 19 in which the information  
2 includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

1       23. An article comprising a machine-readable medium that  
2 stores machine-executable instructions, the instructions  
3 causing a machine to:

4           open a first connection to a server;  
5           establish an information exchange protocol;  
6           open a second connection to a server;  
7           select an active connection from the connections; and  
8           communicate information configured for the information  
9 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1       24. The article of claim 23 in which a single one of the  
2 connections is selected as the active connection.

1       25. The article of claim 23 in which the instructions  
2 further cause the machine to monitor the connections for a  
3 parameter selected from the group consisting of signal  
4 strength, transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and  
5 connection integrity; and  
6           reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.

1       26. The article of claim 23 in which the information is  
2 communicated in packets, each of at least some of the packets  
3 includes aggregated information for different local  
4 applications.

1       27. The article of claim 23 in which the information  
2 includes commands that are effected by a module on the server.

1       28. A system comprising:

2           a device, a server, and communication links, in which the  
3 device is configured to:

4           open a first connection to the server using one of the  
5 communication links;

6           establish an information exchange protocol;

7           open a second connection to the server using another of  
8 the communication links;

9           select an active connection from connections including  
10 the second connection;

11          communicate information configured for the information  
12 exchange protocol using the active connection.

1       29. The system of claim 28 in which at least one of the  
2 communication links includes a wireless communication link.

1       30. The system of claim 28 or 29 in which the device is  
2 further configured to monitor the connections for a parameter  
3 selected from the group consisting of signal strength,  
4 transmittal rate, latency, cost of transmittal, and connection  
5 integrity; and

6           reselect the active connection to optimize the parameter.